

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

Five of the ten unit 374 board members were elected in November to begin serving two year terms in January. Susan Hettema and Nancy Kruger were newly elected while Susan Law, Bob Zipp and Bill Kass were re-elected. Serving out the remainder of their two-year term are Jill Burtram, Felicity Moore, Wilma Morris, Marian Schreyer and Jerry Shinkle. Normally, a new slate of officers is elected at the end of the December board meeting, which the new board members attend, but because there was not a quorum present at our last meeting, this will have to wait until the first board meeting of 2010. I would like to thank the retiring board members Keesha Ashanti and Mike Gray for their service on the board.

The Unit Board decides on December based on the Charity Chairperson, informal meeting, Marian donate \$1000 each to Homeless, Roadrunner Homeless project. The year-around charity that the proceeds from designated charity games.



charitable contributions in recommendations of our Marian Schreyer. At our recommended that we Health Care for the Food Bank and Helen Fox Assistance League is the Unit supports with the

The Unit Holiday party was held December 13. Hospitality rookie Marian Schreyer organized this year's event and enlisted the support of veteran Willie Morris to put on one of the best parties we have had. Thanks to everyone who donated food – we saw a large variety of edible dishes this year contrary to previous years when most of the food was inedible. (Just kidding, I wanted to see if anyone was reading this.) We also had twenty tables of bridge before the party and more than ninety people who showed up for dinner. I guess that means that more people like to eat than play bridge. It is close though. 🙄

In This Issue

<i>President's Column.</i>	1
<i>Buddha Says</i>	1
<i>Bridge Lessons</i>	3
<i>DCBC News</i>	4
<i>Newer Players Page</i>	6
<i>Odds & Ends</i>	7
<i>Membership Changes</i>	8
<i>Unit Calendar</i>	9

Buddha Says*

Today a few thoughts on slow play. Tournament bridge is a timed event, with usually about seven minutes per hand. Whether I'm playing or directing, I hate slow play. When a pair is consistently slow, the movement is disrupted. First one, then three, then five tables are out of sync. I know that some hands are much harder than others (say a difficult slam) and require more time. But, over the years, I've found that when my partner goes into a prolonged tank, my mind tends to fade away. He figures out the hand, makes a brilliant play and I blow it because of a loss of concentration, which then upsets my partner greatly. My mother said she had an epiphany once at a bridge tournament. When a very good opponent started thinking, she used the time to figure out what his problem was and found the correct defense to beat the hand that she wouldn't have thought of otherwise.

So although It's really difficult to keep your concentration when there is a long pause, use the time to think instead of getting angry.

When a pair has fallen behind for whatever reason, it is incumbent on them to catch up by the end of the following round. 🙄

President's Column, from page 1

The Navajo Trail Regional is January 18-24 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North. We want to encourage all unit players to attend – especially new players. Monday night, the first day of the tournament, there will be a 299er Charity Game. The rest of the week we have planned 199er events every morning and afternoon including single session Swiss Teams on Thursday and a two session Swiss team on Sunday. There will be prizes for all 199er section flight winners. The District 17 (Rocky Mountain Region) Board of Directors subsidizes the playing fee for 199ers to encourage everyone to participate in regional tournaments.

This will be the third consecutive year we have held the tournament at the Pyramid. This site has proven to be popular with local and visiting players. The hotel shows their appreciation for our business through the cooperation and hospitality that they extend to everyone who attends. We seem to have found a place we can call home.

While on the subject of Albuquerque regional tournaments, I want to mention that we have been in negotiation with the District 17 Board of Directors to accommodate their need to change the date of the 2014 Las Vegas regional tournament. It is a long and complicated story, but the result is that Albuquerque will move our 2014 regional tournament to late February – early March, while Las Vegas will hold their regional in our normal time slot in January. We will see how this minor change will affect our attendance. The District has promised to guarantee a good financial result if a problem occurs. This change in schedule was the subject of a recent column in the Western Conference Forum by John Van Ness, the District 17 board president. It is a small lesson in communication.

None of this affects this year's tournament so I hope to see you all in January at the Navajo Trail Regional.

-Bill Kass

Buddha Says, from page 1

It is good manners and good bridge manners that if the round has been called and you are still playing, you pass a board so that only two, and not three, tables will be starting the next round late. No one enjoys following a slow pair, but I often try to have a faster playing pair come after a slow pair, and I feel your frustration. With our new BridgeMate scorers, the directors can easily monitor which pairs are taking more than their allotted time, who's been naughty and who's been nice. If a pair is consistently slow, and has disrupted the movement, I automatically give them a quarter board penalty. I don't think the other directors are so draconian. ACBL has threatened this at their tournaments, but never carries through.

Another way to speed up the play is to claim. But claiming can be a two edged sword. If you have the rest of the tricks, or all the tricks but one, or six winners and the rest are losers, bridge proprietaries (and the laws) say you should claim. However, when you claim, you need to state clearly what your plan is, and whether or not there are outstanding trumps. If you get it wrong, the director has to be called and inevitably the table falls behind and time is lost. I usually claim against strong opponents, but if I feel my opponents might get confused, I try to set up the dummy with all winners and then claim.

ACBL is changing their policy on movements at tournaments.

BRIDGE LESSONS

Supervised play for beginners and advancing beginners is being held on Saturdays at 9:30 - check the website for changes.

Francie Straw will begin an eight week series for intermediate players on Saturday, 6 February, at 9:30 am. The revised edition of Commonly Used Conventions by Audrey Grant will be the textbook. The DCBC Education Commitrtee recommended that a fee of \$20.00, payable at the first class attended in each series, be charged. This fee will also apply to the beginning class, which is tentatively scheduled to begin in early March.

The Unit will be offering a four week class for intermediate players on Sundays prior to the 1:30 pm game with a start date of 31 January, 2010.

It is the policy of DCBC that requests to use the club for lessons be submitted to the DCBC board for approval and scheduling coordination. A syllabus/lesson plan content, along with teacher credentials, will be reviewed by the Education Committee and consulting expert players.

Please watch the bulletin boards for classes and workshops being taught by other instructors during the semester.

-Pat Plummer

FREE SUNDAY LESSONS

Debbie Reichman and Jill Burtram plan to offer a series of four free lessons on Sundays from 11:00 to 1:00 starting Sunday, January 31, 2010. The lectures will be followed by supervised play. Watch for the sign-up sheets to be posted on the doors to the North room. The lessons are for advanced beginners and intermediate players.

-Jill Burtram

From now on a session will consist of only 24 boards and one break. I hope our local clubs continue 26-28 boards and two breaks. The local directors use those breaks to catch the field up, and I think many of us need the extra potty time.

On another subject, the ACBL has three nationals a year, and I've decided that they are the tournaments you want to try to attend. If you play in national events, you get to test your skills at the table against the best in the world. You'll always remember the hand where you fooled Zia, or brought home a squeeze against Meckstroth and Rodwell. At most regionals, the pair events have been so overwhelmed by KO teams that you will be lucky to find two small sections in the pairs events, which usually aren't as competitive as our club games. But at the nationals, there are a good variety of pair games, and all of them usually have several sections with many good players. Plus there are still those multi-bracketed KO teams available. At the recent San Diego Nationals, I played in the senior KO teams. In my second match, the player on my left was one of the great players of all time, a world champion, a hall of famer, and one of the inventors of two over one. It was a real privilege to get to play against him. I was especially impressed by his demeanor and tempo. In 64 boards he never showed any emotion, he was completely passive. Every bid and play came after a slight but consistent pause. But what was most amazing was that he and his partner never said one word during the match. Our team started with a huge lead, frittered it all away, and then won at the end when a game and slam swing went our way. After the match, my opponent ,who had been silent for nine hours, was effusive in his praise for our play and had a suggestion for an

DCBC NEWS

As we reflect on 2009, there were numerous accomplishments during the year at the DCBC. Some of the highlights are summarized as a brief reminder of a challenging but very productive year.

New Game Coordinator, Treasurer, and Committee Chairs

Felix Moore was appointed as the new Game Coordinator for DCBC and has done an excellent job. In the Spring, Jan Evans was appointed as the new treasurer for the Board of Directors and has provided very important expertise and skills needed for this role. In addition, there were several new chairs appointed for key standing committees. Jerry Shinkle accepted the position to serve as the chair of the Finance Committee. Jerry and his committee members are playing an important role in overseeing an annual budgeting process of the DCBC Board as well as other important financial oversight functions.

Larry Bertholf accepted an appointment to serve as chair of the Conduct and Ethics Committee and has reviewed the policies and procedures in this area.

After reviewing the functions of the other standing committees, a new one was established early in the year. The new committee is called Toys for Tots, Loving Concerns, and Celebration of Birthdays (TLC). Nora Johnson is serving as the chair of the TLC Committee. The restructuring of several major functions in this area is working very well under her leadership.

Revisions of the Bylaws and Policy Manual, Plus a New Manual

The DCBC Bylaws were revised and approved by the membership. They went into effect August 1, 2009. In addition, a Policy Manual Revision Committee (ad hoc) has been working over the past several months and a draft document is under final review. The DCBC Board will formally vote on the revised Policy Manual on January 12, 2010. Barbara Schneider has served as Chair of this Committee. The other members are Al Dennis, Mary Erickson, Jim Hull, and Elaine Stone. Barbara Schneider has served major leadership roles for the revisions of both the Bylaws and the Policy Manual.

As one of my last contributions as president, I am assembling a new Manual of Operations that will be available by the end of January 2010. A copy of the manual will be kept on the shelf above the director's desk, so any member can refer to it. The table of contents should help members locate information they want concerning DCBC.

improvement in our bidding system. He said he felt we deserved to win. I try to emulate his tempo and passivity and sportsmanship. Unfortunately, I often fall short.

And here I would like to stress the lack of postmortems. Bridge is a better game if when you table the dummy, you say nothing about your thought processes during the auction or your chances for success in the play. A simple "thank you" by declarer and "good luck" by dummy is enough. The result only needs to be confirmed after the play. Many, many years ago I played with an intense woman who really wanted to improve her bridge and our partnership. We usually played Tuesday evenings. Wednesday morning about 4:30 am, before I was on my way to work, the phone would ring and we would go over all the previous night's hands. In those younger days I could remember who had what cards and every detail of the play. After a few years, even though we weren't the best players in town, we became Albuquerque's strongest partnership. About three years ago Bill Koehler started providing hand records at our local games, and with better technology we now almost always have them. I think the best way to improve your game is to utilize those hand records and carefully go over your successes and failures with your partner after the game. If you postpone your postmortems until later, it will also speed up the game.

-Joe Harris

(*) Editor's note: In the future, this column will run in place of Al Beebe's "Ask Al" column. Enjoy!

Other Activities to Assist Operations at the DCBC

This Fall we moved all our banking activities to Western Commerce Bank located next to our building. The bank is very convenient for our accounts, but we also are promoting a partnership with our neighbor. As you know, members of our unit board have made arrangements with the bank manager to allow us to use a portion of the bank parking lot for our members. This summer DCBC also made arrangements with Walgreens to use the portion of their parking lot that is located near our property to help with the sectional tournaments. In addition, we recently added more handicapped spaces in our parking lot.

Change to More Charity Games

In 2005, ACBL implemented a policy permitting clubs to hold as many charity games a month as they wanted, which allowed for the awarding of more points for each of these games. The ACBL regulations require that each player pay an extra dollar and that the money be donated to a not-for-profit charity. In May, the DCBC Board of Directors reviewed the trend for many clubs across the nation to offer the maximum charity games so their members would have the opportunity to win more master points as allowed by ACBL. In June of this year, the DCBC Board approved a pilot charity game plan for several months, inaugurating a new schedule of games and the number of sections to be offered. Following several months of the pilot program, and positive feedback from a large percent of the membership, the board decided to continue the current schedule of charity games. Members have suggested most of the charities we have chosen to receive our donations. We have selected different charities each month and the checks sent have been over one thousand dollars each. There is a new notebook on a table near the wall between the two rooms that lists our charities and the amount of the donation we sent to each.

Upcoming Fortieth Anniversary for DCBC in 2010

During the fall of 2010, DCBC will celebrate its fortieth anniversary. The two largest duplicate bridge clubs in Albuquerque voted to merge into one organization on November 30, 1970 and to be called the Duke City Bridge Club. The two clubs that joined together were the Albuquerque Bridge Club and the Heights Bridge Club. I am sure the 2010 DCBC Board of Directors will be planning a special event to honor this milestone.

To mark the end of this year, I want to take this opportunity to express a special thank you to the DCBC Board and all the committee members who have given so much of their time and talents this year; to Felix Moore for her major contributions as our Game Coordinator; to our dedicated directors; to Russ Edwards, our tireless Property Manager and board member; to Mary Erickson, who was always there when called upon for assistance; and to all of you as great members of our club. Best wishes for the new year.

-Elaine Stone

Newer Players Page

LOOKING BEYOND THE POINTS

Your partner opens the bidding with 1 club. (The opponents pass throughout the auction.) You respond 1 heart. Partner then bids 1 spade. What is your rebid with the following hands?

♠: T 7 6 3
 ♥: A J 5 4
 ♦: T 9 8
 ♣: K J 9

Partner's bid promises four spades. The partnership has an 8-card fit in spades. You have 9 HCP. Bid 2 spades. This bid tells partner that you have support for spades but minimum values.

♠: T 7 6 3
 ♥: A J 5 4
 ♦: 8
 ♣: K J T 9

This hand also has 9 HCP and 4-card support for spades but the hand is worth more because you can add another three points for the singleton diamond, bringing the value of your hand to 12 HCP. With this hand I would be tempted to bid 4 spades but at the very least 3 spades. If partner only has 12 points, 4 spades could be too high but 3 spades should make easily.

♠: T 7
 ♥: A J 5 4
 ♦: K 8 6
 ♣: J T 9 3

This hand also has 9 HCP but does not have sufficient support to raise spades. You can bid 1NT to tell partner your hand is flat with minimum values and less than 4 spades.

♠: T 6 3
 ♥: A J 5 4
 ♦: 8
 ♣: K J T 9 7

The hand has 9 HCP, 3 dummy points for the singleton diamond and 5-card support for clubs. My rebid would be 3 clubs indicating invitational values.

♠: 6 3
 ♥: A K Q T 9 8 5
 ♦: 4
 ♣: 7 4 2

You have 9 HCP plus 3 points for length in hearts. You do have 6 losers but bridge is a partnership game. Your partner has opening values and has indicated strength in clubs and spades. Bid 4 hearts.

Each of these hands has 9 HCP but the rebids are all different because the shape of the hand is a big factor in deciding the worth of the hand. With each bid made by partner, the value of a hand can increase or decrease. Bidding is a dialog. Partner's opening bid of 1 club opens the conversation. Your response of 1 heart simply states that you have at least 6 points and 4 or more hearts. At this point partner does not know if you have minimum values, invitational values or maximum values. Your second bid is an opportunity to tell partner more about the shape and value of your hand. It is not just about HCP. The shape of your hand is also important. If you have a fit for partner's suit, add dummy points to HCP. If you have your own long suit, add points for length. If you know you have enough for game, bid it or make a forcing bid.

-Keesha Ashanti

Odds & Ends

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

Unit 374 will be holding 3 qualifying sessions for the Grand National Teams between February and April this year. Qualifiers will be able to play in the District Finals to be held during the Las Vegas Regional in June.

Our qualifiers will be Swiss Team events with three flights:

- Flight A: Open
- Flight B: 0-2000
- Flight C: 0-500

The events will be sectionally rated and award 50% red points. For more information, please check with Felix Moore or look under special events at www.district17news.com

-Felix Moore

REGIONAL HELPERS

I may only be speaking for myself, but it seems that every January the regional tournament setter-uppers and taker-downers seem to get older and older and more and more decrepit. Is there anyone out there with brawn and muscle who would be interested in helping us set up and take down tables this year? We usually start setting up at noon on the first day of the tournament, and take down right after the Swiss Event on Sunday. Besides having to get the tables set up and arranged, we need people to help load and unload the truck, clean the tables, set out the bidding boxes, and assemble the section markers. With enough volunteers, this usually doesn't take more than two hours. Or if you can only devote one hour to us it would be appreciated. If you can help, please contact anyone on the board (our names and telephone numbers are on the back page of the newsletter). Thanks!

-Susy Law

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

- Have a favorite bridge snack?
- Need to try out a new recipe?
- Have an urge to bake/buy a goodie and don't want to admit you "ate the whole thing"?

Call Marion Schreyer at 299-3102 to donate snacks or to volunteer hospitality services for any Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Bill Isham Tel: 515-4914

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Masters

Donna Allison
 Eric Johnson
 Elaine Rosandich
 Julie Smith
 Club Masters

Club Masters

Carl Barber
 Don Cromer
 Egda Delaney
 Michael Delanie
 Jim Dennis
 Randall Jones
 Carolyn Lamb
 Donna Romm
 Carol Schwarz
 Robert SmithLee Wootten

Sectional Masters

Roy Davis
 Patricia Elder
 Nora Johnson
 Barbara Kerl
 John Knight
 James Linn
 Linda Stuart
 Lorraine Taylor
 Macauley Taylor

Regional Masters

Sharon Berry
 William Clithero
 Cheryl Mitchell
 Christine Reid
 Gary Scrivner
 Mary Scrivner
 Karel Toohey

NABC Masters

John Curro
 Robert Knowles
 Mike Modern

Bronze Life Masters

Albert Dennis
 Michael Eckart

Silver Life Masters

Mike Grady
 Marian Schreyer

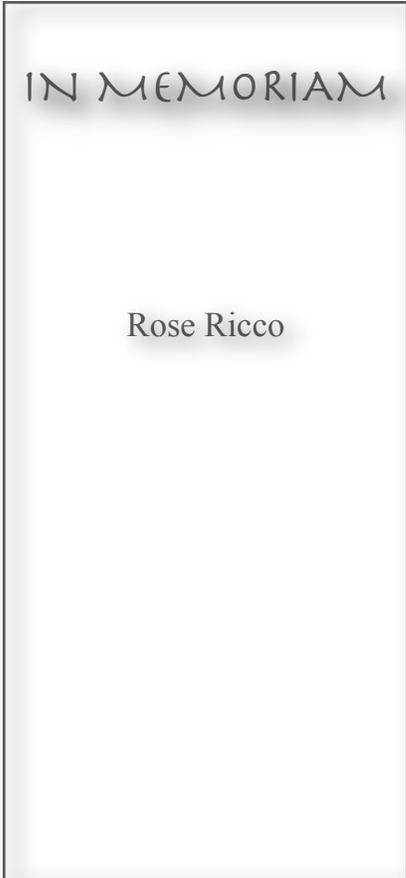
Gold Life Masters

Deborah Reichman

NEW MEMBERS

Marguerite Addis
 Ellen Brabson
 Cynthia Brill
 Mark Elliott
 Jean Fitting
 Claire Hanna
 Richard Hanna
 Edith Isenberg
 Richard Long
 Gail Mandel
 Carol Mehrhoff
 Jean Munn
 Mary Neamen
 Scott Obenshain
 Toots Obenshain
 Maureen RizzoliEstelle
 Rosenblum
 Mina Sady
 John Schatzberg
 Laurie Schatzberg
 Richard Scotten
 Alfred Stites

Malka Sutin





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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

Sunday games at 1:30p are hosted by Unit 374.

January

- 3rd: Charity Pairs
- 10th: Board-A-Match Teams
- 17th: Charity Pairs
- 24th: No Game - Regional
- 31st: Charity Pairs

February

- 7th: GNT Qualifier
- 14th: ACBL Junior Fund Pairs
- 21st: Unit Pairs Championship
- 28th: Swiss Team Championship

March

- 7th: Mixed Pairs Championship
- 14th: Charity Pairs
- 21st: GNT Qualifier
- 28th: Charity Pairs

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